

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /109 W
----- 081212

P R 151316Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3164

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

47\$5:/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2334

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0925

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AO, MZ, RH, ZA, US

SUBJECT: CHONA COMMENTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. DURING APRIL 13 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA REVIEWED HIS RECENT MEETINGS IN LONDON WITH CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERS DOUGLAS HOME AND MAULDING DURING WHICH HE THOUGHT HE CONVINCED THEM OF NEED TO ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION OF WHITE SETTLERS FROM RHODESIA. CHONA STRESSED CONCERN ZAMBIANS FEEL ABOUT UNSTABLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION DEVELOPING IN MOZAMBIQUE. FELT THAT FRELIMO IS ESSENTIALLY ANTI-CUBAN, NOR IS IT PRO-SOVIET, AND THAT USG SHOULD ACT TO EXPLOIT THIS ATTITUDE TO WEST'S ADVANTAGE. CHONA ALSO COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON GROWING FISSURES WITHIN
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ANGOLAN MPLA AND PREDICTED THAT WHILE CUBANS MAY DOMINATE

LAUNDA GOVT FOR NEXT SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS, WITHIN TWO TO FIVE YEARS THEY WILL BE THROWN OUT BY ANGOLANS THEMSELVES. END SUMMARY.

2. RHODESIA. DURING HOUR AND ONE HALF CONVERSATION APRIL 13 WITH PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA, LATTER REVIEWED HIS RECENT MEETINGS IN LONDON WHERE HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE HAD CONVINCED TORY LEADERS DOUGLAS-HOME AND REGINALD MAULDING ON NEED FOR BRITISH TO INVITE WHITE SETTLERS TO LEAVE RHODESIA RATHER THAN FACE INEVITABLE MASSACRE IN DEFENSE OF LOST CAUSE. AFTER HEARING OUT CHONA'S PROPOSAL TO EVACUATE WHITES BEFORE IT TOO LATE, THESE BRITISH STATESMEN PROTESTED THAT PLAN WOULD UNDERMINE SMITH GOVT AS THERE WOULD BE FEWER PEOPLE LEFT TO FIGHT IN RHODESIA'S DEFENSE. CHONA ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS PURPOSE OF HIS PLAN BUT INSISTED IT WOULD SAVE LIVES. CHONA ARGUED THERE ARE 230,000 WHITES IN RHODESIA. OF THESE, 100,000 ARE CHILDREN 17 YEARS AND UNDER AND 100,000 ARE WOMEN AND MEN BEYOND CALL-UP AGE. REMAINING 30,000 REPRESENT MEN OF FIGHTING AGE, OF WHICH 20,000 ARE BETWEEN AGES OF 18 AND 35. THESE YOUNG MEN SHOULD HAVE MORE TO LIVE FOR THAN DEFENDING PROPERTY AND LIVES CERTAIN TO BE LOST ANYWAY WITHIN TWO YEARS IF GUERRILLA WAR ESCALATES. CHONA URGED BRITISH SHOULD THEREFORE PRESS WHITES TO LEAVE AS IT WOULD BE LESS COSTLY TO BRITISH EXCHEQUER THAN A COMPLICATED COMPENSATION SCHEME. MOREOVER, CHONA SAID HE CONVINCED THAT IN ANY WAR WHERE NUMBER OF WHITE CASUALTIES MOUNTS, BRITISH WILL BE COMPELLED EVENTUALLY TO SEND IN TROOPS TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN THEIR COLONY, STILL ANOTHER HEAVY EXPENSE. CHONA RECALLED THAT CANADIANS HAD OFFERED TO TAKE REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA. SOUTH AFRICA COULD ALSO TAKE SOME, ALONG WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. HE ARGUED THAT USG SHOULD ALSO SEE RHODESIAN PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF THIS PEACEFUL OPTION TO ESCALATED CONFLICT.

3. MOZAMBIQUE. CHONA STRESSED CONCERN ZAMBIANS INCREASINGLY HAVE FOR UNSTABLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION DEVELOPING IN MOZAMBIQUE RESULTING FROM LOSS OF COMPETENT PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS AND RESULTING ADMINISTRATIVE BREAKDOWNS. EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IF RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN SITUATIONS CAN BE SOLVED IT WOULD HELP WITH MOZAMBIQUE'S STABILIZATION. ALSO MENTIONED THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S SUPPORT FOR RHODESIAN ANC GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS OVERBURDENING ITS OWN LIMITED RESOURCES. CHONA EXPLAINED THAT MAIN PURPOSE BEHIND RECENT ZAMBIAN AND TANZANIAN DEFENSE/POLICE MISSIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE (LUSAKA 0826; MAPUTO 368; DAR 1223) WAS TO SEE HOW MOZAMBIQUE'S NEIGHBORS COULD ASSIST IT IN SHOULDERING SOME OF BURDEN OF SUPPORTING LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA.

4. CHANGING TACK, CHONA EXPLAINED THAT FRELIMO IS ANTI-CUBAN.

PARTY HAS NEVER FORGIVEN CUBANS FOR THEIR CRITICISM OF LATE EDUARDO MONDALANE AS "REACTIONARY AND CIA AGENT." US COULD DO MORE TO TURN THIS ANTI-CUBAN BIAS TO ITS OWN ADVANTAGE, HE SAID. CHONA CATEGORICALLY ASSERTED FRELIMO ALSO CANNOT BE JUDGED AS PRO-SOVIET. HE RELATED ANECDOTE THAT SOME YEARS BACK WHEN MACHEL, NETO, CABRAL, AND CUNHAL WERE ALL IN USSR, CABRAL AND NETO ON CUE LAUDED PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY WHILE MACHEL REFUSED, SAYING ALL PORTUGUESE WERE IMPERIALISTS AND COLONIALISTS WITHOUT EXCEPTION. CHONA WENT ON TO SAY THAT ZAMBIA IS NOT ARGUING THERE ARE NO PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS IN FRELIMO. ONE WAY TO ASSIST MACHEL TO RESIST THIS SOVIET INFLUENCE, CHONA SUGGESTED, IS FOR US NOT TO STAND ALOOF FROM MOZAMBIQUE.

5. ANGOLA. CHONA SPENT SOME TIME ON SUBJECT, CLAIMING THAT THERE IS NOW GROWING EVIDENCE OF WHAT ZAMBIANS PREDICTED ALL ALONG, NAMELY THAT LEADERSHIP ROLE OF NETO AND OTHER MULATTOS WITHIN MPLA WOULD COME UNDER CHALLENGE FROM BLACK RANK AND FILE. NETO IS UNDER ATTACK AND WINNER IS LIKELY BE THAT MPLA FACTION WHICH IS PREPARED COOPERATE MOST CLOSELY WITH CUBANS. THIS PHASE COULD LAST SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR, SPECULATED CHONA, BUT WITHIN TWO TO FIVE YEARS THERE WILL COME STILL ANOTHER PHASE IN WHICH PRO-CUBANS WITHIN MPLA WILL THEMSELVES BE CHALLENGED AND OUSTED FROM POWER.

6. COMMENT: CHONA DID NOT MENTION WHETHER HE HAD ALSO FLOATED SAME IDEA ABOUT ENCOURAGING WHITE EMIGRATION FROM RHODESIA WITH LABOR MINISTERS OR WITH FOREIGN OFFICE. GIVEN NUMBERS INVOLVED, WE WONDER WHETHER WHITE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE REALLY SO READY TO ABSORB LARGE OUTFLOW OF RHODESIANS OVER RELATIVELY BRIEF TIME PERIOD. HOWEVER, CHONA'S PRESENTATION INDICATES ZAMBIANS ARE STILL HOPING AND LOOKING FOR WAYS TO AVOID LARGE-SCALE BLOODSHED IN RHODESIA AND THEREFORE IS ENCOURAGING, WHETHER OR NOT THIS PARTICULAR SCHEME LIKELY
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TO FIND ANY ENCOURAGEMENT IN WHITEHALL. WITH RESPECT TO INTERNAL SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIAN CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCES IN THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRY OFFER POSSIBILITY THAT AS SITUATION DEVELOPS THERE KAUNDA MAY BE WILLING PUT IN FAVORABLE WORD FOR US AS POTENTIAL COUNTER-WEIGHT TO COMMUNISTS.
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